that may be imposed by the Director General of Foreign Trade. A ceiling of 5,000 Kg. of Sandalwood Oil has been permitted for exports during the year keeping in mind the availability of sandal wood from legal sources and the requirements of various domestic industries.

The decision to allow the export of sandalwood oil subject to the above mentioned conditions was taken on the recommendation of Ministry of Environment & Forests on the ground that Sandalwood oil being a forest produce and not a machine finished product, its exports cannot be freely permitted.

So far as Jasmine Concentrates is concerned, the same is not appearing in the Negative List of Exports and hence is freely allowed for export to all permissibe destinations subject to any other law for the time being in force.

Smuggling of Cardamom

2293. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 245 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th December, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the concerned customs authorities and other officers are vigilant to prevent smuggling of cardamom to India;

(b) whether any instance of cardamom smuggling has been detected so far;

(c) if so, action taken against the culprits; and

(d) whether any search has been made in the domestic market to find out whether any foreign cardamom is being sold in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) On receipt of complaints of cardamom of Guatemalan orgin being smuggled from Nepal to India, all Concerned Customs authorities and their field formations were alerted. Deptt. of Revenue launched a special drive to intercept the cardamom being smuggled from Nepal into India and the drive has resulted in a number of recent seizures of cardamom on the Indo-Nepal border. The details of the seizures of Cardamom on the Indo-Nepal border are as under:—

Year	Quantity seized (in kgs.)
1995-96	323
1996-97 (Prov.) (Upto Dec. 96)	27891

Smuggling of Rubber

2294. SHRI JOY NADUKKARA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that smuggling of rubber is a usual occurence through our borders;

(b) whether any such smuggling has been detected so far; and

(c) if so, action being taken to check it in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coffee Plantation in the Hilly Areas of Andhra Pradesh

2295. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any headway has been made by the Coffee Board to plant coffee in the hilly areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any survey has been done of the suitable areas of Andhra Pradesh for coffee cultivation; and

(c) if so, proposals under consideration by the Coffee Board to extend coffee cultivation in Andhra Pradesh in 1997-98?